Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-088
Friday
6 May 1988

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Cuba

Castro Welcomes Visiting PDRY Party Leader

FL0505222088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2148 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has welcomed 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], at Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. Fidel greeted warmly the party leader of the PDRY as he disembarked. Al-Bid and other PDRY figures are paying an official and friendly visit to our country. Al-Bid, accompanied by our commander in chief, reviewed the honor guard and later greeted PCC and government leaders and members of the diplomatic corps who went to welcome him. A group of Havana residents and Yemeni students also welcomed Al-Bid.

Presents Playa Giron Order

FL0605015088 [Editorial Report] Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish at 0033 GMT on 6 May carries in progress a live ceremony to confer the Playa Giron Order on 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP secretary general. The location of the ceremony is not given.

Castro and Al-Bid are seen entering the room and each joins their respective delegations, who are standing facing each other across the ceremony hall. Soldiers carrying the flags of Cuba and the PDRY are seen marching. The national anthems of the two countries are played.

Osmani Cienfuegos, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, reads a prepared speech. He says the Council of State decided to confer on Al-Bid the Playa Giron Order in recognition of his contribution to the revolutionary cause. He gives historical background concerning Al-Bid's role in the Arab nationalist movement and notes that, at the time, the Cuban revolution was already organizing its defense against the imminent attack by "U.S. imperialism." Cienfuegos says the Cubans later learned that their revolution had inspired the young Yemeni revolutionaries, Al-Bid among them.

Cienfuegos asserts that the "Yemeni revolution has been and is a defender of one of the most noble and legitimate causes of its people. It is heading steadily toward socialism. It has showed without hesitation solidarity with the peoples who struggle for their freedom, personified today more than ever in the heroic Palestinian people who face the Zionist barbarism. The Playa Giron Order expresses the recognition of our country to the men who, with their contribution to the revolutionary cause, truly represent the aspirations of their peoples." Castro then pins the medal on Al-Bid's lapel and they embrace.

Al-Bid begins reading a prepared speech in Arabic, with simultaneous translation into Spanish. He expresses his gratitude for the honor conferred. He notes this shows the high level of relations reached between the two countries. Al-Bid refers to the support given by Cuba to the PDRY "in the livestock-agricultural development projects and also for the role played by Cuban experts in the training and preparation of the people's militia so that it can contribute to the defense of our national sovereignty. The training received by the Yemeni cadres in the Cuban institutes and universities cannot be forgotten, nor the teaching missions of the Cuban professors who have worked at Aden University or the education received by our students in the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force schools on the Isle of Youth and other signs of support and cooperation between our two friendly countries."

After Al-Bid ends his speech, the soldiers carrying the flags march out of the room, and Castro and the rest of the Cuban delegation approach the Yemeni group and shake hands.

Castro Inaugurates Projects in Pinar del Rio

FL0405201088 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 2217 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Speech by President Fidel Castro marking International Workers Day in Pinar del Rio on 30 April—live]

[Text] Comrades of Pinar del Rio: In speaking of Pinar del Rio I am referring to the city and the province of Pinar del Rio.

I was invited to inaugurate some projects on the occasion of 1 May. In this case, 1 May is being celebrated on 30 April. I see that you have organized a 26 July here. [applause] That is the impression I get when I see this enormous multitude of people. (Tocayo) [no further identification provided] had told me that 100,000 people would be here. Here 100,000 is mentioned as if one were talking about a dozen people and 100,000 people are 100,000 people. [applause]

I am also aware of the sacrifices required by a gathering such as this; the long hours spent on the highways, streets, and roads. By the time we arrived at noon, we could see mobilizations. We were concerned with the hot sun on this last day of April. Fortunately, the clouds then rolled in like an omen of an early spring which we need so much.

I was not just thinking of the heat. I was also recalling that today is the day of the boxing match between the United States and Cuba. I was thinking that millions of compatriots would be watching the broadcast because that type of sports event is followed with much interest. Nevertheless, tens of thousands of people in Pinar del Rio will not be able to listen to the match over the radio or watch the result of the fight over television. Some of us had the privilege of listening to part of it because, when we visited certain areas, we had the radio on to see what was happening. They say the match will be rebroadcast on Monday. [laughter] This way you won't miss it. [applause] In case you don't know, I can tell you that out

of 12 fights, we won 10. [applause] Some say that two of those fights were lost unfairly. In general, however, I can tell you that the judging was very efficient.

I was saying that we are marking 1 May, the glorious day of the workers, a true day of festivity in our fatherland since the victory of 1 January 1959. How are the people of Pinar del Rio marking this 1 May?

We are marking it with a real work festival. We are marking it by paying tribute to work. We commemorate it by being able to express our efforts in deeds and results. We commemorate it by inaugurating a large number of projects which the workers accelerated in honor of this date. First of all, it is historic that the national highway has reached the city of Pinar del Rio. [applause] Adults, older people, remember when there was only one highway on which to travel to Pinar del Rio and that it was one of the longest and most dangerous routes in the country. Who knows how many lives were lost on that narrow road, how many resources, and how much time was invested. Now, we have completed a large part of the project, a wide highway. The rest of the way is covered by a [corrects himself] by two very wide roads. The half of the highway that is already built already looks like a highway by itself. Its beauty is truly impressive as you enter the city on this highway. Progress was being made on the two roads but it was then decided to work on one in order to facilitate transportation.

I remember when i visited the province on the occasion of an exercise, a military exercise, a defense exercise. We arrived early in the city. It took a long time to travel between Herradura and the city of Pinar del Rio. There was an interminable caravan of vehicles, buses. One could hardly move.

When we came in June, we met with the leaders of the province and analyzed the need to speed up the termination of this highway. They were in the middle of the rectification process.

This highway actually began more than 10 years ago. I remember when it was begun, when we organized the brigades. I say it was 10 years ago but it could have begun in the capital 15 years ago. It took 6 days to get as far as Artemisa. Experience was not available when the road was begun.

This highway should have been finished earlier. A lot of time was lost on this project, as was done in the construction of dams and many other projects. A lot of money was invested. Money was thrown into these projects and none of them were finished. This was a reality for many years. It decreased the rhythm of construction, including the quality of construction. The projects began to be interminable.

Vices, problems, and negative tendencies were also manifested in many other activities. Fortunately, we have a revolution, a true revolution, a legitimate revolution that is able to rectify its errors. It is able to rectify in time its own negative tendencies.

The rectification process began when we became aware of these other problems. We saw that many things that had been very successful at one time had lost their strength. I am not going to discuss this here. We've talked about it on other occasions, the causes of these problems.

We knew that the roads had become extraordinarily bad. I know of highways that would take 65 years to construct at the rate they were going. The road from Santo Domingo to Corralio in Las Villas is an example of this. Some road construction was paralyzed, while other construction maintained the same pace.

Dams, which at one time were built in 2 or 3 years, were taking 15, 20, or more years. There were erroneous concepts in planning and there was an insufficient allocation of resources. Money was spent on projects every year even though there were many millions of pesos that were supposedly generated. Nevertheless, you could not rely on any of those statistics because no project was finished.

Water conservation fell drastically, among other things. That is why one of the tasks stated was the matter of water conservation. There was conservation for many years during the revolution and thanks to this dozens and dozens of dams were constructed throughout the country, large and medium-sized dams. Minidams were constructed throughout the country. An irrigation system was developed, canals, and so forth. However, water conservation had fallen tremendously. The decline of water conservation united—coincided—with one of the most prolonged—or perhaps the most prolonged—drought the revolution has experienced during these past 30 years.

The revolution became aware very early of the need to build water projects. There were no more than 2 or 3 dams in Cuba supplying water to some cities. They were small dams with tens of thousands of cubic meters of water. The revolution has been able to make dams capable of holding billions of cubic meters of water.

However, during the past few years, not a single dam was finished and we suffered the consequences more each time. That is why the need for water conservation was stressed.

The necessity for conservation could also be applied to roads. We could also call it the conservation of routes, highways, roads, and streets.

As I mentioned earlier, we were here less than a year ago and we analyzed these matters. The province was already working hard. It was working hard on the construction of roads and it was working hard on the construction of dams. They were renewing those that were abandoned. They were beginning to work on these. This provided the incentive to support the province in this effort and it can be said that water conservation began in Pinar del Rio Province and the province now heads the vanguard of the country in the conservation of water. [applause]

The province also marches excellently in the construction of highways, roads, and streets. The desire and objective of laying the last few kilometers to Pinar del Rio in a short time was stated on that occasion. The date was moved up from 26 July 1988. Some say that the date was moved up 3 months but much more was moved up due to the rectification process. The 26 July deadline was a very difficult goal that the province undertook. It was a new pace, a difficult goal. A goal that was already very difficult was moved up 3 months from 26 July. That gives you an idea of how hard the construction workers labored in this final stage of the construction of the northern segment of the national highway.

That is why we are able to inaugurate this project built by the construction workers. They deserve the most sincere and warm congratulations for the exemplary effort they have made. [applause]

We will not, however, limit ourselves to building the northern segment of the road. I think that by the next work day, 3 May, the workers building this road—the No 3 engineering projects enterprise—will be laying the southern segment. This time they will advance in the opposite direction, from Pinar del Rio to the east. We have 53 km left. Part of the excavations have been made. Part of the bridges have been finished. We have a serious task ahead of us and we will not be content with those two wide roads. We want the highway to be complete, finished, with all its connecting roads.

We have begun to see some support for that brigade, some resources. Some of their buses have been repaired. Other equipment can be added to reconstruct their force, to renovate their force. We will continue using the major part of the equipment we have, but some of them will be replaced during the second half of this year.

They have set a good pace because we have to finish quickly. We have to finish this road quickly. How long will it take us? We have 53 km left. We think that by 1 May—we want to set a reasonable date—by 1 May [repeats himself] 1990, the 53 km of the southern part of the road will be finished. I am confident that the workers will not only fulfill their goals; they will overfulfill them. I am absolutely sure. [applause]

I think the same thing will happen with that date as with the 26 July goal. I am sure that with renewed energy and some new equipment, this brigade will meet that goal. [Words indistinct] We are not going to junk the equipment we replace. We are going to use it in the expansion of the Pinar del Rio-Guanes highway, to make it wider. [applause]

However, there is another reason why we are interested in seeing the brigade continue to work with this same big drive. It should not only complete this two-lane highway, but also, as soon as it finishes the two-lane highway, it will have to start working on a two-track railroad line between Pinar del Rio and Havana. [applause]

We are not only going to have a highway between Havana and Pinar del Rio, but also a two-track railroad line. Work is underway on the project and there is already some progress on the Havana-Artemisa stretch. Our plan is that as soon as they finish this second road, these brigades will start building from Los Palacios toward the east. First they will connect completed stretches.

This railroad transportation is very necessary. The province has no big port. Practically everything brought to the province has to come over roads or by rail. Many of the province's exports also have to be transported over roads: tobacco, citrus fruit, lobster, fish. All these are important sources of foreign exchange revenue for the country. And it's not only goods but also people who travel this way.

People are going to travel more safely on this highway. It has an island, two wide lanes. In fact, we got here in approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes without speeding. One hour and 20 minutes! [crowd stirs] I was reading all the way. [Castro chuckles] It's not a new thing, not a new thing. Several people told me that it took 1 hour and 20 minutes—I don't mean from the capital; I mean from the point where the Mediodia highway starts. I don't think I broke any laws. [crowd laughs] At any rate, if anyone broke the law it was the comrade who was driving. [crowd laughs] They say that the man who kills the goat is as much to blame as the one who ties it up. [crowd laughs]

So I was reading all the way. All of a sudden I asked: Where are we? We're in Pinar del Rio, I was told. I was used to 3-hour drives. Curves and more curves. I was very surprised. Before I realized it, we were already in Pinar del Rio. I'm not implying that the buses will make it this fast, but I would say that they can make the trip in practically half the time as before.

We will have a good two-track railroad in the future. A portion of the lines will be new. There will be a new line from Havana to Artemisa. From Artemisa to Pinar, the new track will mostly follow the old one. However, it will also be a high-speed train, which will make it possible to travel comfortably between the country's capital and the provincial capital.

And, of course, it will make possible large-scale transportation of goods. There are raw materials here that must be transported to other areas of the country. Sand, rock, other products have to be transported elsewhere for the production of bottles, glass plates, etc. There are many industries that require raw materials from Pinar del Rio. At the same time, many raw materials and products have to come [words indistinct]: all of the cement consumed in Pinar del Rio has to come from the factories in Artemisa and Mariel; all of the iron rods used in Pinar del Rio; all the tiles used in Pinar del Rio; all the bathroom fixtures used in Pinar del Rio; a large number of the ironworks used in Pinar del Rio in housing and social works construction.

Therefore, those two large projects are very valuable ones. This one is almost at hand. With the effort of these workers we will shortly have the two lanes. I can assure you that it will not take us long to get to the two railroad tracks. We are going to push this project as much as possible from our end. It could happen, in fact, that some of these brigades will start working on the railroad as soon as we have the plans. For example, the bridges brigades are far advanced. The bridges brigades might be building the bridges we need for those two tracks by the end of the year. It's possible that reinforced land-clearing brigades might also start construction work this very year from here on. In other words, if not from Pinar del Rio, at least from Los Palacios, halfway, to connect the roads. It is always good to make the connections. Even if we finish this or that stretch, unless we connect them, they are of no use. However, if we connect Los Palacios with the capital, then we can start using that stretch. That's why the workers in the capital will start in this direction and workers here will start toward the capital.

Therefore, we are not going to take too long. We are not going to set deadlines right now, but I can assure you that we are not going to take long to finish those two tracks if we keep up the spirit and the productivity we have achieved so far.

This is good news. I feel that a noble, happy, honorable way to commemorate 1 May is this 26 July of sorts that you have organized here.

But there is more goods news in other fields. I have already said that the province is at the vanguard in the resumption of hydraulic works. There are three reservoir brigades. They took on a heavy load. They are ahead of schedule in their construction plan by many months. When we came here in June last year, the brigade building the Guama dam was barely organized. The equipment had just arrived. The work had hardly begun. It was estimated that it could take 2 and 1/2 years. In fact, they are going to do it in 1 year and 7 months, according to the reports I have. It appears that they are going to finish the Guama dam in March 1989.

The Guama dam not only means around 40 million cubic meters of water for public, industrial, agricultural use; it will also prevent tremendous floods such as the ones that took place here during the last hurricane. These hurricanes cause so much damage, cost so many lives, destroy so much wealth.

I remember the hotel—I can't recall the name—I visited in the days of the hurricane. I was told that a cow in the water ended up on the hotel's second floor. [crowd laughs] She took a room there, just like any tourist. Here where we are all standing was a veritable sea. It affected many families; a lot of furniture, mattresses, air conditioners were damaged. I recall that the revolution had to come up with a plan to sell, supply, grant credits and low prices to thousands of families affected by these losses.

After the hurricane, I remember thinking: We won't take long; someday we'll have the dam. The brigade was organized last year and this is the last spring the river will get the chance to overflow as it did before. The waters will be confined in the Guama reservoir.

But it's not only that. Not only will the city have the water it needs but it will have it without wasting it. No one has the right to waste water. The country will never be able to say it has the water resources Pinar del Rio has, but the nice thing about all this is that it is not lost afterward. Instead, we treat it. Through a diversion dam and through a channel which is presently under construction, the water will end up at El Punto Dam and its level will be raised to take in approximately 100 million. Then all that water that the opera singers waste in a shower here, in this happy city of Pinar del Rio, we will at least be able to use afterward in agriculture. Using these procedures, it will not be wasted.

The treatment plant will also produce fertilizers and water for agriculture. Look at what a logical thing this is. That water will then go to the ocean, just as all the water from the Guama River goes to the ocean. All that water that floods us now goes to the ocean. We will save that water, we will store it, there will not be any floods, and we will use it for the population, industry, and agriculture. Those are rationing measures.

I tell you that soon, within a few days, the brigade which completed the Paso Viejo and El Punto diversion dams and the Paso Viejo-El Punto Channel will build that diversion dam. That is why I think that as of next year not a drop of water will be wasted in the river. We will be able to take all of it to the El Punto Dam which will soon increase its capacity. Notice what that single project of Guama means. It is also important for the workers not to spend 10 years building that dam. Let's not get that ridiculous, absurd, and stupid idea of giving 100,000 this year, 100,000 the next, and 100,000 the next if it is not finished within an estimated amount of time. So how much time should they be given? Only as much time as they need to build. Only as much time as is needed by the teams of a brigade, and only as much time as the workers

need to do the job. That is the most logical way of working. As soon as they finish, they can prepare another project. If they take 10 years, we spend 10 years investing in cement, sand, rock, fuel, engines, and work force, and we do not receive anything in return. We are still dry when it doesn't rain, and we still get flooded when it rains excessively. I think that our people, and those of Pinar del Rio, understand perfectly the logic of this rationing. Therefore, we will have a dam sooner. Immediately after, another one, to be called the Paso Viejo Dam, will be built on the same river. It will also be to store water. On the occasion of this 1 January [corrects himself] 1 May, the San Julian Dam has already been completed. The dam was completed way ahead of schedule. Now that that dam is completed, our comrades will go on to work to the west of Pinar del Rio. For the first time, we will begin building dams to the west of Pinar del Rio. There still remain a few to be built in the east; almost all of them are built there. I think that around 1990 or 1991 we will no longer need to build dams in that area, unless other possibilities are discovered. We will soon build dams between Pinar del Rio and Guane. We are already studying the Cuyaguateje project, where the dam with the greatest flow in the province will be. It will have more than 250 million cubic meters. You know that the Cuyaguateje floods. All that water can be turned not only into centers to produce food, fish, etc, but can also be used for all the citrus, tobacco, grain, and vegetable plans. This will not be a matter of another decade, no. As these brigades finish here, they go on to the west of the capital. Now they will build El Rancho Dam; afterward, they will build the one in San Juan. Those also flood when it rains a lot, and they take lives. They cause a lot of damage, as they did in that hurricane.

Therefore, the workers of the water projects have completed the channel of Punto Jiconal, from Paso Viejo to El Punto. They have rebuilt an important channel from Santa Clara to Herradura. They have completed San Julian. They are moving fast in El Patate and here in Guama. These are three dam construction brigades which we have to maintain and strengthen in whatever way possible, so that they can continue working at an increasing pace.

What does this mean? It means that when we are through, not a single drop will escape to the sea. We are working on minidams in the north. Comrade Gregorio [outstanding worker who preceded Castro at the podium] mentioned here the time when we inaugurated a minidam in Vinales. We plan to build all the dams possible there. The land is very fertile, but it doesn't always rain. Or if it does, the rain is late. Or it can start raining in January. You can see what great advantage it is to have water from November on to plant tobacco, vegetables, grains. Everything has to be planted at the same time now. But if we have water, the planting can be staggered. The crops are more certain to be plentiful.

We sent a minidam brigade to Vinales. The thing is, however, that it is building a dam for 9 million, which makes it no longer a minidam. I was telling my namesake that if you build a lot of minidams, you have water fast. In a few months, water here, water there. We should build the bigger ones later. The bigger ones include irrigation systems. However, after building a few medium-sized ones, the brigade moved on to bigger ones and is now committed until the year 1990. When we are able to, we will organize another minidam brigade in the municipality of Matahambre, to keep working on the idea of not letting a single drop escape to the sea that could be dammed up otherwise. Let the water escape to the sea only at the end, there where we can't build a dam, there where we can't retrieve it, get it back to the watertable.

I was noticing a model you have here in the province. They were showing it to me at noon. The model consisted of all the projects and channels built in the province. It is really a nice model. You can see all that's been done over these years of revolution in the area of dams and channels. I don't know if you can get a picture out in the newspapers so that everyone can see it. You can not only see the dams that are built already but also the few that remain to be built, the channels left to build.

But I tell you, in my opinion, in 2 or 3 years at the most, all the (?eastern) projects will be completed in the Pinar capital. We will do the rest in a short period of time. North and south. The best prospects are in the south, where there are more rivers. Thus, in this sense, I feel the news is good and encouraging.

The effort in building local mountain roads was also mentioned here. Aside from the several highways crisscrossing the province from south to north, there is a central mountain highway which will make it possible to go from Soroa, or before Soroa, to Vinales and beyond—to Matahambre by road. This without using either the northern road, the central highway, or the national highway.

So, the province will have four highways crossing it from one end to the other. This will help the Turquino program, the reforestation program, the program to plant coffee and other crops. It will help to keep the peasant population on the mountains. It is a must to keep the population there. I am certain that with the excellent living conditions they will have—electricity, communications, good housing, good living standards—they will stay on the mountains. That's a big plan. I know that the highway builders have also made a huge effort on the mountains.

Moreover, our province is not only making progress in highway and railroad construction. It is not only making progress in building mountain roads and hydraulic works. Our province is making considerable progress in agriculture in general. Gregorio was explaining here about the very good harvest in both quantity and quality this year. Important steps were taken in the organization to enable the province to do without bringing in labor as much as possible. The enormous mass of dozens of

thousands of students that has to be mobilized from the capital is very costly and causes many problems. They have their own work to do there. Vegetable and tuber cultivation is going to expand by more than 500 caballerias.

The plan is to build some 30 schools. There are almost 20,000 pre-university students in the capital. They are not attending rural schools. There are provinces that have almost all their pre-university students in the rural schools. They help supply the capital with tubers and vegetables. Therefore, with the introduction of technology, machinery, organization, and with the incorporation of people into the work—which has been made more feasible with the agricultural wages reform and which in turn has made it possible for more than 10,000 people to join agricultural tasks in Pinar del Rio Province—it will truly be a good thing for the country to get the province to push ahead with these agricultural and development plans without having to import labor at any time.

Agricultural progress is made, critus cultivation improves, etc.

As explained here earlier, there is a program for 3 million quintals of tubers and vegetables. This means more than 4 quintals of tubers and vegetables per capita. There is a plan to plant more than 1,000 caballerias with short-cycle crops in formerly idle tobacco fields.

There are plans to produce up to 3 million quintals of rice in this province. There are plans to plant around 3,000 caballerias. Depending on the yield, production could be more than 3 million. We thus make good use of all these areas close to the coast. Above all, we'll do this by the proper utilization of the impounded water. A lot of water is still being wasted in agriculture. Sometimes a hectare of rice takes 20,000 or 15,000 cubic meters. The provincial first party secretary, Comrade Fidel Ramos, was explaining to me that they have done some experiments and found that with only 10,000 cubic meters a number of caballerias have been planted with a yield of 1,400 quintals. He was telling me that there were times when the water was repumped three and four times. The water used to go from one level to another and then to the sea. They repumped it.

They are also planning to plant several hundreds of caballerias in grains and vegetables in rotation with rice in the dry months in those areas. So, there are big development plans for agriculture.

There can be no doubt that the province is making considerable progress in industrial development. The province today has the biggest, or at least the most advanced, electronics industry in the country. Believe me, the comrades who work in these electronic component factories deserve to be honored, because they have added to the province's prestige. When you see an industry as complicated and complex as this one, one that requires so much technology, so excellently managed by the people of Pinar, you fully realize how much our country has advanced.

This requires a level of education, technical training, and culture undreamt of in the past. This shows that any industry, no matter how complex or difficult it may be, can be built and efficiently operated by the people of Pinar. [applause] Large investments will continue to be made in the electronics industry. It is said that the investments will amount to some 50 million pesos. The electronics industry is going to keep growing. It is the province's pride.

The mechanical industry will continue to grow in the province. This is also another good example of how the people of Pinar are able to work. Continued investments will be made. The industry will play an important role in the development of our country's automobile industry.

Moreover, construction will soon begin in the northern part of this province, in the Santa Lucia area, of a big lead, zinc, and copper production plant. It is a modern industry which we will build in close cooperation with the Soviet Union. The construction equipment will soon start arriving in the province to begin clearing the land for the Castellanos mining industry. You know that the province has large deposits of these metals in the northern part.

In addition, intensive work continues in the exploration for oil, since the province's geological structure is a promising one. There's a whole drilling program. Sooner or later, we will find the oil and the gas. If we don't find it under the ground, we will find it in the sea off the northern coast of Pinar del Rio Province. That is very important.

There is also a plan to build a big factory to manufacture plate glass, which is so important in the construction of houses, hospitals, and social works in general. We were thinking of a plant with a capacity to produce from 3 to 5 million square meters of plate glass. The country's single plant right now is in the capital and produces only a few hundred thousands square meters of plate glass. We have to import a lot of the glass that we need. You know what it means to have to import glass from thousands of kilometers away. Then, also, you can't really import in really large quantities. We are going to build this new plant in Pinar del Rio.

There are also plans to build a big bottle manufacturing plant soon. This way we can take advantage of the excellent raw material the province has. And, in this vein, there are other industrial development projects. Therefore, we can guarantee sustained industrial growth for the province.

We have talked on other occasions about social progress. All of you know how much progress this province has made in education. I would say that it's among the most advanced in the country today. It has a large number of schools and they are quality schools. There is increasing quality in this area. Some negative tendencies are being rectified, overcome.

The province now has some university faculties. It has the School of Economics. For the past few months, it has had a Mechanical Engineering School and an Electronics School. These are faculties or new branches of higher education set up in recent months and which now have a few dozen students. Pinar del Rio will graduate engineers to work in its electronics industry, those who will work in the industry. The province also has agricultural and forestry schools, producing forestry engineers. In short, higher education has grown considerably.

In my opinion, the jewel in the crown is Pinar del Rio's School of Medicine. The school is close to completion. We toured the place and we saw an Olympic-sized pool that looks like an ocean. There's an excellent gym whose (?roof) is practically finished. We saw track and field and soccer areas. I think that there's even going to be a small baseball field that they are going to build on a small piece of land ceded by [word indistinct]. I protested a bit at first. I said, this is too much baseball, too much baseball influence, and this can be detrimental to other sports. But, they were so happy about it. I didn't want to disappoint them. I was told that the medical students were also good baseball players. I thought they were going to tell me they were good doctors, but the medical students told me they were good baseball players. Well, they don't have to tell me they are good doctors because we'll take care of that ourselves.

The truth is that this school has graduated around 1,200 doctors. This in a province that in the past only had 200. Its school alone has graduated 1,200. There are more than 1,500 medical students. The province has so many that in the future restrictions will have to be applied to enrollment somehow.

But the most important thing is that, of the students who enroll in the medical schools, those from Pinar del Rio have the highest averages. [applause] Their average is 95 or 96. The students with the best averages, I repeat, are the ones from Pinar del Rio. This has ensured a high graduation rate, a very high one. Of course, this is due to the selection, the qualifications of the students who enroll. Now, imagine those students in that school. They have all the resources, all the laboratories, an enormous hospital next door, a modern hospital. Imagine what excellent doctors we will have graduating in the future. They will certainly be increasingly better prepared.

We are also developing the bachelor's degree in nursing. We can also develop bachelor's degrees in other health areas. In the not too distant future, they will enter medical schools with high school degrees and then study for 5 years to obtain their bachelors' degrees in nursing. That's how we are moving in education. In the early years of the revolution, students enrolled with a 6th grade education; later, they went in after 9th grade in order to become teachers. We are now giving a higher education to many of these teachers. In the future, they will be enrolling in schools and universities with high school diplomas in order to get a bachelor's in elementary education. I think we will be the first country to achieve such a high level in the education of its teaching personnel. [applause]

Notice what a gigantic leap forward! It is a historic leap in 30 years.

As I said, the nurses will have a bachelor's degree. In other words, all the personnel that used to attend a nursing school, a mid-level technical school, will have to go to university. In addition to our program to provide more advanced development courses to our present teachers who have no university degree, we will have a program to give advanced development courses to people who are nurses now and have no university degree. See how we can garner the results of these great advances? I ask myself: Are there many more countries that have this kind of thing? Are there many other countries that can say their students' first-grade teachers are university graduates? Or that nurses will graduate from university? That they will have to study almost as long as doctors to become nurses? Are there other ways to guarantee better health services to future generations?

We might even be envious, despite our own present progress, of what the country will have in a few years. In addition to all these efforts to train doctors, we will have new institutions like the family doctors. This year, 107 family doctors will join the workforce in the province. Some of them will go to the mountains. That will be approximately in 1993. If not 1993, then 1994. The whole province will have family doctors. See what gigantic... [changes thought] Hospital installations will continue to develop. A big surgical-clinical hospital was built in San Cristobal, and another has been built here. It is possible that a third will have to be built in the western part of the province, similar to the one in San Cristobal, so that the people of Guanes and all those other areas won't have to come here. A gynecology-obstetrics section is being built right here in the hospital just finished. It is always convenient to have the maternity hospital next door to the surgical-clinical hospital, because the most experienced surgeons are there and they always have resources and equipment that can help the mothers. Therefore, we have the ability to combine maternity and surgical-clinal hospitals.

Now, what are we going to do with the old hospital? We are going to rebuild it, restore it. We are going to build another maternity hospital there. The capital then will have two very modern maternity hospitals. [applause] One of the current maternity hospitals will be turned into a rehabilitation hospital, another very important

service. Although this new hospital has an excellent rehabilitation section, we want to develop rehabilitation services in all surgical-clinical hospitals. It suits us. It is one of the most important and most appreciated services. We are going to turn the old maternity hospital into a rehabilitation service for the province. We will continue to build as many family doctors' offices-homes as necessary, as many polyclinics as necessary, as many medical facilities as necessary. Stomatological clinics will continue to be built. I believe that the clinics now are linked with the stomatological clinics. Therefore, services for the province will continue to be developed in a country that will surely have one of the best medical services in the world.

We will continue to build child care centers, which had not been built in years. After this rectification process, the province will build 23 child care centers in 1988-90. The minibrigades are being organized. All social projects the province needs, in addition to housing, will be examined. The reason that a bigger push has not been given to the construction of housing is because we are pushing the accelerated building of construction materials plants. The insufficiency of construction materials hampers us, but we will give it a bigger push each year. We will develop new technologies. In fact, I was shown how certain types of ironworks are being produced in prisons, how the prisons are developing a construction material based on ferro-cement. There are very nice plans and models of low-cost housing using these materials. Mosaics production is being developed to tile floors. It can be said that everyone today is working everywhere to find a solution to all these problems.

The prospects are good. Who does this depend on? It depends on us, on our work.

What will we have in the future? We will have everything we are capable of creating. The facts—life itself—shows us that if we work well, if we work with tenacity, organization, discipline, and efficiency, we will be capable of achieving everything we set for ourselves to do. Those who knew this province and today visit the electronic component factory, the hospital, the mechanical industry, a school such as the (?Engels) School, or many other institutions, hospitals, and schools [applause] will certainly be able to say that they could not even have dreamt about these things in the past.

I am going to say that my promises have been fulfilled. Once in a while politicians promised roads, highways, a first-aid post, or something like that and never kept their promises. They were not even capable of ending hunger, much less to create those projects. They were not able to end hunger. This province was a landholders' fief. They owned everything, they charged rent for everything. It is known by part of the population and the young ones may have heard about it, how much they suffered, how much poverty there was, how many illnesses, the high mortality rate, the illiteracy there was in this province. I am not going to say how it was called because that is something from the past. But a medical student was telling me today: It is no longer Cinderella, it is already the princess. He was referring to the Pinar del Rio Province. [applause]

Its infant mortality rate was 12.2, 12.3 in 1987, and this year it is under 11. I believe it is around 10.7. It is less than in Washington, the capital of the empire [words indistinct] Who would have said this? Who would have been able to imagine such a thing, that here in this western province the infant mortality rate has been 10.7 in this first quarter? We have to continue to struggle because even with such low figures a small number of illnesses has an influence on them. We are talking about a sophisticated type of medicine. This shows that it will drop below 10 pretty soon. So as all these medical institutions, the maternity center, and family doctors continue working, the mortality rate can be reduced even more. Pinar del Rio may be among the first provinces to reduce infant mortality to less than 10. It should be one of its objectives, its aims. Pinar del Rio's infant mortality rate is way below that of many developed countries. This is a reflection of social progress; it shows that we can achieve what we set out to do. How? I repeat, by working in the same way we are working now, working each time more and better.

It is not a matter of working many hours, although many hours of work are needed in some areas now because we have to make up for lost time. We couldn't lose time in finishing this (?highway) which brings so many benefits to the entire country, for all those who travel from the rest of the country to Pinar del Rio, and for all those who travel from Pinar del Rio to the rest of the country. We cannot keep our arms crossed and say: I don't care it takes 15 years or 1 year to build it.

We need to build those trains very fast. The country needs them. We need to build dams and canals very fast. The country needs them. Health installations need to be built. The country needs them. The country needs factories. We cannot afford to wait; this is why we have to work on them. Above all, we have to make good use of the work day. It is very important to make good use of the work day.

In many cases there is not enough work content in (?projects) because of the problem of narrow job profiles and all those factors. That does not happen in other cases. [Passage indistinct] with a microscope, so it is a very difficult job. To do that for 8 hours requires a lot of patience.

We have said [passage indistinct] fortunately we will have, relatively soon, automatic machines for that job. The good use of the work day is very important. The quality of work is very important—quality of work as a construction worker, or as factory laborer, or as a teacher, doctor, nurse, health worker, [word indistinct] worker. The quality of what we do is very important. It is very important. Quality is a matter of culture, the

culture of quality in construction, the culture of quality. There are people who do not like to see a stain somewhere, there are people who do not like to mix the colors of bathroom tiles, or a dark floor tile with a light one. This is the culture of quality.

We also have to acquire it just like the culture of service, which the population complains about so much. This happens precisely because a citizen is not capable of waiting on another one as he should. When that citizen's child goes to school, he wants the child to receive the best classes in the world, the best education in the world. When he goes to the hospital, he wants the diagnosis to be the best one in the world and he wants to receive the best treatment in the world. Everything. If he goes to a baseball game, he wants it to be perfect and wants to enjoy a perfect game. However, when he has to provide a service to another citizen, if he works in one of those service establishments, he does not bother to give the best attention. This is a matter of culture, of culture [repeats himself]. It is a battle I am sure we will win. Some are more difficult than others. We cannot wage all battles at the same time. We are winning the battles in many fields. We will win all the battles in one field after another.

This will depend not only on our conscience; it will also depend on culture. I see that our country is moving forward, it really is, in the formation of that conscience, of that culture. We have to fight mediocrity, sloppy work everywhere. We have to wage war on the useless. We have to be implacable.

I was saying that the progress is clear. It is a more educated people. I am going to say it, because I have it right here, I am looking at it—this ceremony, this rally, its organization and discipline, the attention and manners of this public is very hard to find anywhere else in the world, I can assure you. [applause]

We have been able to reach these levels of drive, enthusiasm, culture and political awareness, these levels of patriotism that have us joining the Territorial Troops Militia, the military units, the defense zones everywhere, to defend the fatherland, the price of life. We have been able to achieve this power; we have been able to achieve the power of an invincible country. And this is not because we have nuclear arms, powerful fleets. The reason for all this is that this country has tremendous moral weapons, an indestructible patriotism. Its unity and spirit is such that it would be impossible for any invader to seize this country. If we have reached such lofty moral, political, and revolutionary heights, how can we fail to win the battle against those small things that still remain; win the battle against the lack of culture that remains, the bad habits of an exploited, underdeveloped, and poor country that we inherited from the past?

I have no doubt that we will win those battles, too.

This is why today, 30 April, 1 May, and 26 July, I want to congratulate all Pinar workers [applause], young people, children, all men and women of this noble and selfless province. I want to say how happy we are to have been able to participate in this day of joy, this day of enthusiasm and celebration, along with all of you. I want to express our affection, our sympathy, our deep admiration, and our trust in the people of Pinar del Rio.

Fatherland or death, we shall win! [crowd responds "We shall win!"] [applause]

Bahamas

Pindling To Address Nation on Drug Allegations

FL0505182988 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 5 May 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] There have been reports lately in the press about an American grand jury that is about to investigate the prime minister as a result of the evidence coming out of the Joe [as heard] Lehder trial which accuses Prime Minister Pindling of accepting a bribe, among other things.

Sir Lynden spoke in the Garden Hills constituency last night at a PLP [Progressive Liberal Party] rally there, and he and other speakers addressed the situation. Here is (Obie Wilchcombe) with the story.

[(Wilchcombe)] Prime Minister Pindling followed several of his parliamentary colleagues to the microphone who pronounced their annoyance and outrage of the repeated attempts to, as one MP put it, drag the prime minister down.

Sir Lynden told the parliamentarians and the PLP supporters that he's not angry; he's just ready. Reiterating that he's not surprised by the so-called investigations, the country's leader repeated his position that he would be surprised if anything came out of the investigations. His optimism, he explained, is simply because of the fairy tale stories being told, noting in particular the evidence of George Baron, III, in the Lehder trial.

Baron, a convicted drug smuggler sentenced to life imprisonment plus 100 years, was looking for a reduced sentence of 10 years after telling his story that he gave Prime Minister Pindling a suitcase of money in the Paradise Island Casino in the presence of the deputy prime minister. Sir Lynden, he further alleged, opened the suitcase right there and gave an attorney a bundle of money.

[Pindling] "I've decided that I will speak to the nation some time later this week and lay this whole thing out as I see it. They had their time to talk and [words indistinct]

time to talk. [applause] And I will try and explain to you, my fellow countrymen, as best I can how I see this story and why, the wherefores, and the how come.

"I want you to know, and I hope you would believe me, that I have never been offered a bribe by anybody, have never accepted a bribe from anybody either, from drug traffickers or from anybody else performing any illegal purpose."

[(Wilchcombe)] He said when he speaks to the nation, he will expound reasons he believes nothing will come out of the investigations.

One of the reasons he disclosed is because of the past 5 years the attorney general has been requesting from the United States attorney general any evidence of allegations made against any member of government. He said no evidence from previous allegations nor from Barron's allegations have been forwarded.

Stating that they will be hearing from and seeing us, the prime minister revealed that while the livelihood of Bahamians is being ensured, our case will be taken to the world.

[Pindling] "We are citizens of the world, and we have a right to be here. [applause] We have a right to be treated fairly, and we are going to insist upon our due rights as citizens. We will not have our sovereignty violated, and we will resist any spread of neo-colonialism."

[(Wilchcombe)] The prime minister said as all this happened: Our eyes must remain on the big picture. He said that picture is the fact that we are on the right course, which he said is still being marveled at.

House of Assembly Discusses Grand Jury Allegations
FL0405192788 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The House of Assembly is back in session this afternoon. Deputy Prime Minister the Honorable Clement Maynard is continuing his contribution on the debate for a select committee to look into matters of crime, law enforcement, and national security in the country.

Michele Malcolm reports from the House of Assembly.

[Malcolm] As the debate begin this morning, the member of parliament from (Marco) City and opposition leader Mr Cecil Wallace-Whitfield rose on a point of information saying that he expected Mr Maynard to discuss reports coming out of the United States which allege that grand juries in Florida are investigating Prime Minister Pindling.

He said that he would have thought that to be the first matter discussed in the house this morning to let the country know what the situation is.

Responding, Mr Maynard said he has no problem dealing with any matter relating to barren evidence. He stated that the United States has a right to do what it wants to do as does the Bahamas because they are sovereign nations.

Mr Maynard reminded the House that both he and the prime minister agreed to discuss similar matters in the House deriving from evidence given in the Lehder trial, but said that when the prime minister indicated that he would also discuss a certain Mr Knowles who had been mentioned in a separate trial and who could also be a member of Parliament, there were strong objections from Clarence Town MP Mr Jimmy Knowles.

Mr Maynard said that in our system the primary representative of the people is the government, which is as concerned as anyone else. He said that this is obvious because the people have had confidence in the government for many years and have kept voting them back into power.

Speaker Sir Clifford Darling called on Mr Maynard, who is also responsible for foreign affairs, to investigate the matter through the U.S. ambassador and report back to the House.

Session Suspended
FL0505225588 Bridgetown CANA in English 2242 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, May 5, CANA—Heated exchanges between government and opposition parliamentarians forced speaker Sir Clifford Darling to suspend Wednesday morning's session of the House of Assembly.

The altercation began over reports out of the United States that Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling is likely to be the subject of a U.S. grand jury investigation based on the testimony of confessed drug smuggler William Baron. Baron testified at the trial of alleged drug kingpin Carlos Lehder that he gave Prime Minister Pindling a suitcase full of money in the presence of deputy prime minister, Clement Maynard. Both men had denied the charge. Baron said the alleged bribe was for favours related to drug smuggling and was handed to Sir Lynden in the resort's International Casino on Paradise Island. He said the prime minister opened the suitcase and immediately shared its contents with his deputy.

Opposition leader, Cecil Wallace-Whitfield, opened the day's debate with a request for the House to discuss the matter.

Sir Lynden reiterated earlier denials of the charges and said he doubted anything would come of the "investigation."

In supporting the prime minister, Maynard said he had no objection to the matter being discussed but that another issue suggesting the possible involvement of opposition [member] Mr Jimmy Knowles in an unsavoury activity should also be discussed.

Members of the House then began a markedly unparliamentary form of discussion and Speaker Darling suspended the session after the opposition leader refused to yield the floor though Sir Clifford repeatedly asked him to do so.

Haiti

Latortue To Attend Mauritius ACP-EEC Meeting

FL0505133788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Gerard Latortue will take part in the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the ACP-EEC, the African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries and the EEC.

The meeting will take place on Mauritius on 6-12 May. Among other things, the participants will examine Haiti's candidacy to the Lome Convention. The daily paper LE PROGRESSISTE HAITIEN announces in today's edition that Haiti's request for admission to the Lome accord is supported by the Haitian private sector.

The paper also reports that SELA Project Director Mr (Jorge Gonzalez Roda) spent a week in Haiti to lay the foundations for developing South-South cooperation. It says that SELA has 26 member-countries and is a specifically Latin American organization that works for regional cooperation. According to LE PROGRESSISTE HAITIEN, Haiti's relations with SELA thus far look auspicious. It points out that SELA's executive council has unanimously approved a program for promoting regional cooperation for the overall development of Haiti.

During his 1-week visit to see Minister Latortue, Mr (Gonzalez Roda) was also charged with coordinating a seminar in Port-au-Prince. The seminar is scheduled for the end of May. It will allow participants from the different member-countries to lay the foundations of SELA's new reaching out to the Caribbean from Haiti.

Gunmen Fire Into Port-au-Prince Crowd; 1 Killed

FL2804212088 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] There was an incident on Rue Bonne Foi last night. At 1900, armed men in a blue Honda Civic car opened fire at shoulder height wounding an undetermined number of people. Witnesses say there is at least one dead.

Residents of this generally peaceful section of town, whom we contacted by telephone, confirmed this report. Also, bloodstains could still be seen on Rue Bonne Foi this morning.

The residents do not know the identity of the men, nor did they get the blue Honda Civic's license plate number.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Speaker] The first time we heard it, everyone thought it was a blowout or something like that. No one even imagined it could have been a shot. So no one did anything. But when they saw that it persisted, when there was a second, third, and so forth, they panicked. There was total panic. Everyone was running every which way. We saw, I personally saw, a blue vehicle with a bunch of people in it. I don't know if there were any military among them, but I saw a person in civilian clothing [words indistinct], who seemed really mad. He was yelling and so forth. I couldn't just stand there and watch, you understand, because everyone was running.

I myself had to get under a car with a (?person) next to me who (?got) shot. When I pulled on him to tell him to get under the car too, I saw that he was dead.

[Reporter] Were they wearing masks? Masked?

[Speaker] No, not at all.

[Reporter] At what time did this happen?

[Speaker] Around 1915 or 1930. No later.

[Reporter] No one else was wounded?

[Speaker] There must have been people wounded because besides the man I saw who died, when I looked to the left, I saw a person lying in the middle of the street. Yes, surely there were others wounded because they were going terribly fast. When they got to the intersection in front of the Pharmacie Sejourne, they got out of the car. They got out and they fired. From under the car I looked and I saw someone lying in the middle of the street. I don't think someone would just be lying in the street while people are shooting all around! [end recording]

The department of the National University Hospital of Haiti to which wounded people are normally taken was unable to give us any information as to the identity of the victim or victims of the gunfire incident that occurred yesterday evening at 1900 on Rue Bonne Foi.

Four hours later, there was a fire at the building housing the now closed Magic Cine. The cause of the fire is as yet unknown. At 2300 last night, fire almost completely destroyed the building and was threatening the surrounding area.

Alerted by the residents of the neighborhood, as usual, the firemen arrived too late to do anything to save the building that used to house Magic Cine.

There were thus two incidents yesterday night in this part of town, Rue Bonne Foi and Rue du Centre, increasing the population's uneasiness.

There were similar fires at the beginning of the week, on Lalue [John Brown Avenue], among others, where a young man was found burned to a crisp in his little house. Also, two unidentified individuals were found shot to death on National Highwcay No [words indistinct].

Government Sued for Illegal Weapons Search
FL0405171888 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpts] The owners of the Pharmacie du Champ de Mars, Mr Yves Lauture and Mrs Gladys Elie Lauture, have initiated legal action against the Haitian Government following the police's search of the pharmacy without a search warrant on 25 March 1988. The police claimed it was looking for weapons.

The Lautures, whose lawyers are (Ernest Mallebranche), Chantal Hudicourt Ewald, Dantes P. Colimon, Elizabeth Colimon Wooley, and (Lesly Alerte), have subpoenaed the justice of the peace (?and) the deputy of the court of conciliation who accompanied the police on the raid. They have also subpoenaed the sub-lieutenant assigned to the Criminal Investigations Department who led the group and who was armed to the teeth, (?and) the director general of the Tax Office and the lawyer representing the Haitian Government to all appear before the sitting judge of the court of the first instance in Port-au-Prince within 3 days, at 1000. [passage omitted]

The legal action is also being initiated because the search in question constitutes a violation of the Constitution of 1987, which says that there can be no searches and no documents can be confiscated except in conformity with Article 43 of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

There was no reason for what happened on 25 March. It was done solely to sully the reputation of honest citizens. Considering the way they acted, the justice of the peace and the sub-lieutenant committed an abuse of authority and a serious excess which deserve to be sanctioned in accordance with Article 145 of the penal code. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, because the Haitian Government permitted this, it should be condemned to pay one centime [0.20 cents] in damages, and justice will have been served. [passage omitted]

Lawyers See Arrest as Attack on Coop Group
FL0405160088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] On Saturday, 23 April, (Toussaint Solisaire) traveled from Jean-Rabel to Port-de Paix with a man named (Jean Cilus). When they arrived in Port-de-Paix, (Jean Cilus) got sick. (Toussaint) called several friends and supporters of the Cooperative Action Group to come help him. (Jean Cilus) was hospitalized and given the required treatment by the doctors. But the illness killed (Cilus). He died on Monday, 25 April, at the hospital in Port-de-Paix.

That is how a letter from several lawyers, including Lafontant Joseph, begins. The lawyers ask for the release of (Toussaint Solisaire), who has been imprisoned illegally in northwestern Haiti.

The letter continues: (Cilus)' body was taken to Jean-Rabel for burial. That is when they heard people saying that he had been beaten to death. There has been much wheeling and dealing ever since. The enemies of the peasants got into the act. For no reason at all, (Toussaint Solisaire) was arrested, beaten, and sent to jail in Jean-Rabel, where he is to this day.

The real target in all this is the Cooperative Action groups, because all the questions asked of (Toussaint) upon his arrest had to do with the activities of the Cooperative Action groups. This is a way for the groups' enemies to accuse them, Lafontant Joseph's letter says.

It goes on: Where is the logic in this? Mr Magistrate, listen: A living man enters a hospital to which his friends take him themselves. A doctor treats him and the man dies. If they had caused his death, the doctor would have said so. It is they who could claim this. Besides, an autopsy of the body could be asked for so as to discover the cause of death. Nothing like this was done. There was no investigation whatsoever. No one else was questioned. They just arrested (Toussaint) and threw him into prison unjustly, illegally, and arbitrarily.

That is why, says the letter, we ask the magistrate to first ask that (Toussaint) appear before the civil court of Port-de-Paix to be informed of the reasons he was arrested illegally and kept in prison and mistreated. He must also be released.

That was a letter from Lafontant Joseph to the representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Port-de-Paix. The peasants' lawyers in this affair are Lafontant Joseph, Moyse Senatus, (Carl Auguste), and Ernst Malebranche.

Energy Secretary Deplores Lack of OPEC Accord
PA0305233688 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1955 GMT 2 May 88

[Excerpts] Today Mexican Secretary of Energy Fernando Hiriart deplored OPEC's failure to reach an agreement on plans to reduce international oil supplies by 5 percent. Today the price of crude oil dropped abruptly on the world market, just 1 day after the OPEC ministerial meeting concluded in Vienna without reaching an agreement. [passage omitted]

As is public knowledge, Saudi Arabia led a group of five countries that opposed the Mexican plan to reduce world crude oil production by 5 percent. In Mexico City, Energy Secretary Fernando Hiriart forecast that the price of crude oil will drop by approximately $3 within the next few weeks as a result of the lack of agreement at the Vienna meetings. In an interview with Radio (Red), Fernando Hiriart stated that OPEC did not reject the Mexican plan; the 13 OPEC ministers simply did not reach an agreement.

Government To Work for Oil Price Stability
FL0405030588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0049 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 3 May (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government will intensify its concerted dialogue policy with independent oil producers and will attempt to increase the number of countries it can work with to stabilize the international oil market.

Spokespersons for the Secretariat of Energy, Mines, and Parastate Industry (SEMIP) noted that the contacts already established will continue to be pursued because they allowed seven independent oil producers to take a joint position at the OPEC meeting held in Vienna last week. SEMIP reported that Mexico will insist on this stand with Angola, the PRC, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, and Oman, but it is also considering the possibility of broadening this cartel by including other non-OPEC member countries such as Norway. There was also talk about the possibility of inviting the Soviet Union.

SEMIP indicated that Mexico is determined to continue working to achieve a balanced world oil market with orderly crude production, recovered prices, and the establishment of a long-term international policy benefiting producer and consumer countries. [passage omitted]

PRC Vice Premier Tian Jiyun Visits Senate
PA0405131888 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 4 May 88

[Report by Juan Manuel Renteria]

[Text] Today PRC Vice Premier Tian Jiyun visited the Mexican Senate. Tian said the PRC wants to increase scientific and commercial exchanges with Mexico.

The PRC is willing to increase economic cooperation, commercial activities, and scientific and technical exchanges with Mexico and other Latin American nations, Vice Premier Tian Jiyun said during his visit to the Mexican Senate. He said the PRC Seventh National People's Congress decided to increase contacts abroad and to develop the country's coastal areas through an economy based on exports, trade, and international competition.

Tian visited the Senate under strict security measures and later attended a lunch hosted by Senate leader Salvador Neme Castillo. Senator Neme Castillo asserted that both Mexico and the PRC have a commitment in the Pacific:

[Begin Castillo recording] We must make efforts so the Pacific basin will become a joint development project and not a barrier to our development plans. The system should guarantee a just distribution of riches and generate [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Pact Creators 'Conspiring' Against Own Work
PA0405193188 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Apr 88 p 6-A

[Editorial: "Useless Sacrifice?"]

[Text] Even though the statistics released by the Bank of Mexico indicate that inflation continues to decrease, it is necessary to reflect on these figures, which are far from allowing any great enthusiasm. As is known, one of the requirements for the fight against inflation to be successful was that salaries keep pace with inflation, which was expected to drop. The goal—which looked plausible from any standpoint—was to keep workers from becoming poorer. In other words, the intention was to maintain the balance between prices and salaries while inflation continued to drop.

For unknown reasons, however, it was decided to scrap this goal. Some felt the sharp drop in the inflation rate demanded a major effort or final drive to lower this rate to zero. The fact that the measures were inadequate, however, is evident when one notes that the accumulated inflation rate from February to the first half of April is approximately 10 percent, while salaries have not increased more than the single 3-percent increase.

The facts indicate that the creators of this Economic Solidarity Pact strategy are conspiring against their own work because, after all, society is aware that becoming poor is the same, whether inflation is high or low. Since the low inflation rate was achieved through greater unemployment and a deeper recession, the people may reach the sad conclusion that this enormous sacrifice has been useless.

El Salvador

Duarte on Coup Chances, Institutional Crisis

PA0605042288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0027 GMT 6 May 88

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 5 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte ruled out the possibility that the Armed Forces are planning a coup d'etat because such an action "would represent a serious danger" for the democratic process.

"We are in a state of crisis during a difficult time; we are working on a just resolution of the social conflict," said the president after receiving the credentials of Clause Daublebsky, the new Austrian ambassador, in the Government Palace's diplomatic hall.

According to the president, any coup d'etat would imply a crisis within the Army, and "such a situation added to the war would represent a serious danger. I trust the military are intelligent people."

Duarte described the institutional crisis within the Legislative Assembly and the Supreme Court of Justice as "a normal occurrence within the maturation process of a democracy."

On 1 May, for the first time in the nation's legislative history, the three majority parties—the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and the National Conciliation Party (PCN)—were unable to swear in the Legislative Assembly.

Nonetheless, the president said that "the government is going to operate" even if there is no Legislative Assembly. He explained that the Council of Ministers will operate without going beyond its limits in order to resolve cases as they arise.

The difficulties among the three main political forces were evident in the installation of a Board of Directors with 30 ARENA deputies and an Administrative Board composed of the PDC and the PCN.

Although after 6 days of negotiations the three political parties have not yet been able to agree on legislative representation and have therefore created a "power vacuum," Duarte said that "we must not be extremely concerned, because this is part of the confrontational process inherent in the democratic process."

However, the president said that he hopes "an agreement will be reached as soon as possible." [passage omitted]

Likewise, the president interpreted "as evidence of the democratic process" the appointment—against his will—of Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes as the PDC presidential candidate for the 1989 elections.

According to Duarte, the PDC leadership made this decision; the PDC is opposed to his proposal of asking Rey Prendes and Fidel Chavez Mena to not run for president and to endorse the single nomination of Abraham Rodriguez.

FMLN Lifts National Transportation Stoppage

PA0605034188 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Comrade Jorge Melendez has announced that the national transportation stoppage will end as of midnight tonight, Thursday, 5 May. We repeat, the national transportation stoppage will end after 2 days of guerrilla victories throughout the national territory.

Attention, pay close attention: As of midnight tonight, Thursday, 5 May, transportation may be resumed along all the nation's highways. Traffic may be resumed along the borders with Guatemala and Honduras. The FMLN has lifted the transportation stoppage, following tremendous guerrilla victories. Greetings to all the units that participated in these 3 days of people's power.

Honduras

Indemnity for U.S. Consulate Fire Supported

PA0405225588 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 29 Apr 88 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text] We learned through a Foreign Ministry communique that the Honduran Government—20 days after the incident—sent a note to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz offering the U.S. Government an official explanation on the burning of the U.S. Embassy annex in Tegucigalpa by irate demonstrators.

Although we do not know the details of the diplomatic handling of this delicate matter, we understand that immediately after the deplorable 7 April incidents, the U.S. Government issued a protest, as was to be expected, and shortly afterwards estimated an indemnity of $4-6 million, according to the party affected.

According to the communique, the official Honduran view is that the acts of vandalism were provoked "by disruptive forces, undoubtedly encouraged by the demonstrations staged in several U.S. cities against the U.S. Government's policy toward Central America."

The Honduran Government "rejects the insinuation that there was bad faith or premeditated negligence on the part of the law enforcement forces provided to protect" the consulate, because the action of the authorities—who did not appear to prevent the acts of vandalism—was to prevent "the government from falling into the trap that the antisocials had clearly set."

"Swift intervention by the police"—the government argued—"would undoubtedly have caused the bloodshed they sought, with incalculable economic, social, and political consequences for the country, endangering the relations between Honduras and the United States."

The Honduran Government emphasized its efforts and cooperation to fight drug trafficking. For this reason, it stated its amazement at "the intense campaign of discredit and slander against the Honduran Government and its Armed Forces through media published in the United States."

Equally mystifying, it added, is the fact that the U.S. Government has declared Honduras a country of high risk, placing an ally at the same level as enemy countries. This, aside from causing justifiable indignation, is causing economic and moral harm." [quotation mark as published]

The tone of the official communique to Mr Shultz is strong, as is the final part stating that "the previously mentioned incidents undermine the cordial and fruitful relations that exist between the two countries cooperating in economic, political, and security aspects, including the temporary presence of U.S. forces in Honduran military installations. Therefore, they should be subject to a more in-depth discussion."

Possibly the last paragraph is a sign to begin negotiating the necessary satisfaction—according to the Vienna agreement—that the Honduran Government must give to the United States for the damage caused during the disturbances, because nobody doubts the legitimate U.S. demands in this regard.

Honduras has no other path but to honor its international commitment. Should it refuse to do so—regardless of the causes of the incident—it would virtually become a pariah in the community of nations, because it would be committing an unacceptable violation of the rules of international coexistence.

Of course, the manner of compensating for the losses sustained is being negotiated. It is not difficult to find a just solution between traditionally friendly countries.

Although the Honduran Government is forced to give proper satisfaction to U.S. demands—which most likely will result in a payment, although it will be more like a demerit—it is essential that consideration be given to the fact that the fire in the consulate was not an official act of the Honduran state.

Therefore, the Honduran Government cannot evade its obligation to fix the responsibilities of those directly and indirectly responsible for the deplorable incidents, meting out the proper punishment to the arsonists, and fixing the blame on those who, out of negligence, permitted the damage and scandal to occur.

Obstacles to National Reconciliation Viewed

PA0505225088 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 5 May 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Reconciliation and National Peace"]

[Text] The indignant protests on 17 April over the flagrant violations of the country's Constitution, instead of moderating and reorienting the government's policies toward the people, have hardened them much more.

In reality, the state of emergency is not over yet. There are continuous arrests without warrants and detentions go beyond the time allowed for by the law. There has never been a victim who, at the first opportunity, did not complain of having been tortured.

In light of these conditions, the national dialogue encouraged by the Reconciliation Commission, which is seeking an understanding, has not been mentioned again; neither have military shows of force been suspended each time the people wish to exercise the right to assemble or to demonstrate. All this means that the people's and the students' violence outside the U.S. Embassy was not taken as a lesson or as a warning of what might lie ahead if the U.S. and Honduran Governments continue their provocations.

This political intransigence endangers the National Reconciliation Commission's mission to such an extent that it fills its precious time supervising President Reagan's deliveries to his "contras," who are once again at their old camps in Honduras. In other words, [the United States is] providing cooperation in the noncompliance with the Sapoa agreements signed by the Sandinists and the counterrevolutionaries.

Meanwhile, domestic reconciliation, the essential mission of this organization established to observe the Esquipulas II peace agreements, is indefinitely postponed.

It is urgent that the national dialogue be resumed, improved, and broadened—improved in the sense that it should publicly deal with all the vital topics, such as the type of democracy we have, in order to determine once and for all if the so-called democratic process is truly democratic or if it is antidemocratic; if relations between Honduras and the United States are those that should exist between two sovereign countries, or if they are of a weak country subordinated to a hegemonic one; if the economic policy of handing over everything belonging to the nation is an adequate solution; and if anti-union and antipeasant policies have a place within a democracy understood to consist of the people's power. It is also essential to evaluate the role played by the military in the domestic democratization process and to conduct an in-depth examination of the obstacles facing the Esquipulas II peace plan.

Regarding the broadening we mentioned, we are referring to the participation of all public sectors, without any exclusions whatsoever.

The federation of city and rural workers has already defined the quality of life that the current democracy allows them: unemployment and anti-union and antipeasant repression. Both types of workers spoke out bravely, agreeing that peace is necessary and that to recover national dignity it is absolutely necessary for regular U.S. troops and the irregular forces that the Nicaraguan anti-Somozism left us as an inheritance leave the country.

From all this, we can deduce the need to reach internal peace to resume the path of our national reconstruction, free from the damaging effects of this "low-intensity" warfare imposed on us by our presumed ally, the United States.

Only then can we soften the pain of paying Temistocles Ramirez [Puerto Rican who owned the land where the Regional Military Training Center was built and who has been asking for compensation for the land since then] what we should not pay him, and start paying the bill for the F-5 planes, which are of no use in feeding our hungry people.

Nicaragua

Defense Ministry Reports Contra Attack

PA0605002788 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2327 GMT 5 May 88

["News Bulletin" issued by the International Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry in Managua on 5 May]

[Text] News Bulletin, 1988

For a dignified peace, free fatherland or death!

On 4 May, two piranha counterrevolutionary launches left Honduras' Amapala Naval Base on the Gulf of Fonseca, violated our territorial waters, and attacked, with heavy machineguns and M-16 and FAL rifles, EPS 2d Military Region positions on the coast in La Bocana, 1 km southeast of Potosi in Chinandega Department—but to no avail.

In response, our troops fired two shots from a 57-mm cannon but were unable to hit the launches. However, they forced them to flee to where they came from.

Issued in Managua on 5 May 1988

[Signed] International Relations Directorate, Defense Ministry

Contra Commanders Request Bermudez' Dismissal

PA0605024088 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpts] Enrique Sanchez Herdocia, alias Cuco; Walter Saul Calderon, known as Commander Tono; Donald Lacayo, close to Adolfo Calero Portocarrero; Ramon Moreno Aguilar, known as Commander Rigoberto; Oscar Montes; and an individual identified as Wichita were captured by Honduran military authorities in Tegucigalpa last night. [passage omitted]

They had all met in a hotel in the center of Tegucigalpa to write a proclamation in which they requested the dismissal of Colonel Bermudez from the leadership of the mercenary forces.

ACAN-EFE reports statements by Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez Benavides, Honduran Armed Forces public relations director, who confirmed that those arrested will be sent to the United States today. Col Suarez explained that the arrests were made to prevent Honduras from becoming the scene of contra shootouts. [passage omitted]

Radio Noticias Newscast Sanctions Lifted

PA0605045188 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge Martinez, interior minister, has authorized Radio Noticias' El Pueblo newscast to go on the air after its directors appealed the decision of the News Media Directorate to suspend its transmissions for 8 days.

The suspension of this sanction is evidence that freedom of expression is not repressed in this country. This statement was made this evening by Lieutenant (Lizet Torres), director of the Communications Media General Directorate. Radio Corporacion, the El Pueblo newscast, [Radio Mundial's] El Nicaraguense, and [Radio Catolica's] Iglesia were suspended for having aired false reports slandering the Sandinist police.

Radio Corporacion was sanctioned with the suspension of its transmissions for 24 hours. The sanction imposed on the other media was for 8 days. Radio Corporacion has already served the terms of its sanction. The suspension remains in effect for the other media, which have not filed any appeal with the Interior Ministry.

Government Asks OAS Aid in Indian Repatriation

PA0505182688 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 May 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Nicaragua has requested that the OAS send a special commission to verify the recent surrender in Nicaragua of more than 200 Miskito fighters and to confirm the serious situation on the Honduran border, where 4,000 Indians who are about to be repatriated are besieged by the Honduran Army.

This was announced yesterday by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto during a recess from a meeting in his office with Miskito Commander Maximo Pantin and other members of the YATAMA [Miskito, Sumu, Rama Indians, and Creole Groups Organization] General Staff, who on Monday signed a permanent cease-fire with the government in the Rio Coco region.

"Today we contacted OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and asked him to send a technical commission to verify this very important fact, which truly encourages us and enables us to believe this entire peace process is beginning to yield very good results," Father D'Escoto said.

D'Escoto reported the government is also considering the possibility of seeking the help of an international organization for the delivery of clothes, food, and medicine to the approximately 4,000 Indians who will cross the Wanki River to return to Nicaragua. D'Escoto said 2,000 of them will be repatriated by the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees].

"I hope Honduras will understand this situation and will offer its necessary cooperation. I also hope the Honduran Army will not continue to play into the hands of the CIA and to hinder the peace process," D'Escoto said, while insisting that the OAS' active participation in this new effort "could contribute to resolving the situation."

Panama

Solis Palma Demands Honesty in Government

PA0505193188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma is demanding efficiency and honesty from all government employees. Speaking to the National Information System, President Solis Palma reiterated that his government's actions will be marked by honesty on the part of the officials working in the ministries and the state's decentralized agencies. Likewise, he noted that governors, mayors, corregimiento representatives, and councilmen must assume responsibility for ensuring the honesty of government activities in their respective geographic areas. As immediate measures, the president stressed limiting public spending and cleaning up the administration of personnel and operational matters. He also commented on the drastic reduction of trips abroad by public officials of ministries and decentralized agencies. He added that he is demanding that all officials efficiently provide services to the community.

Considering the above, President Solis Palma noted that he will hold periodic meetings in every province with the governors, military zone chiefs, mayors, corregimiento representatives, councilmen, and community and technical boards. He will also meet with the representatives of peasant settlements. His twofold purpose is to discuss how these officials supervise honesty and efficiency in government and to decide, at the province, district, and community level, the work plan the government will implement for the development of each area.

Regarding political issues, President Solis Palma said the utmost cooperation will be provided to the Electoral Tribunal. The goal is to strengthen the means that will ensure an efficient, scrupulous, and honest election process and vote count in May 1989.

Delvalle Proposes 1984 Elections Recount

PA0605023188 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] Panama City, 5 May (DPA)—Today Eric Arturo Delvalle, the dismissed Panamanian president, said he is willing to accept a new vote recount of the presidential, legislative, and municipal elections held on 6 May 1984, which the opposition describes as fraudulent.

"I was sad to hear the news that a number of difficulties has prevented the beginning of a dialogue sponsored by the Catholic Church," Delvalle told international news agencies in statements released from a secret location.

"In view of this," he added, "I propose that immediately after General Manuel Antonio Noriega leaves, there be a new vote recount—supervised by the church—of the 1984 elections, so that the people elected according to the new count can take over their respective posts."

Meanwhile, the largest opposition party of Panama, the Authentic Panamenist Party, has announced for tomorrow—the 4th anniversary of the controversial elections—several events to demand recognition of Arnulfo Arias as the winner of those elections.

The Panamanian opposition is trying to confirm the authenticity of the statement sent by Delvalle to the international news agencies.

Banks To Reopen With Withdrawal Limitations

PA0505145888 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 4 May 88 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Deposits Made After 18 April May Be Drawn Without Restriction"]

[Text] With the reopening of local and foreign banks established in Panama, the banks were also authorized to obtain U.S. dollars for their own accounts in order to deal with the need to have available cash.

One hundred local and foreign banks will reopen their doors to the public on 9 May after being closed for 2 months. However, "measures freezing U.S. dollars destined for the national banking system continue in the United States," National Banking Commission Secretary Mario De Diego said.

Mario De Diego added that so long as those measures persist in the United States, "cash payments to the depositors and customers of the banks established in Panama will remain limited."

De Diego explained that there is a shortage of cash within the banking system, but that "there is evidence that a volume of cash exists outside the banking system that is sufficient for the needs of the national economy."

In Panama there are no restrictions on introducing or withdrawing U.S. dollars, the paper currency of legal tender.

Approximately 20,000 Panamanians and another 42,000 U.S. citizen who work for the Panama Canal Commission and the U.S. Department of Defense have put at least $80 million in circulation as their payrolls are paid in cash with paper currency brought from the United States.

Other companies, like Chiriqui Land Co., the refinery, the oil pipeline, Japanese companies, and others, brought cash to meet their payrolls. This money is in circulation without being recycled by the banking system.

However, the banks will reopen with restrictions for their depositors. The depositors will be able to withdraw, through the banks' "windows," monies from their checking and savings accounts during a period of 90 days. This period can be extended "if the United States maintains the freeze on the supply of dollars."

The banks' reopening has been gradually conducted in two phases. Although these phases have been regarded as "successful," "confidence" will be an important factor in banking operations after 9 May, according to De Diego.

Banking sources explained that all deposits which their customers may make after 18 April, when the second phase of the banking operations began, will be free of restrictions.

Legislators on Financial 'Crisis' Measures

PA0505190288 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 88

[Statements by Legislators Ovidio Diaz of the Democratic Revolutionary Party and Carlos Arellano Lenox of the Christian Democratic Party in Panama City on 3 May—recorded]

[Text] [Diaz] We decided that we should discuss possible solutions [concerning a possible moratorium on the payment of debts and commitments with banks and financial institutions] in order to advance during this time of crisis. The decision adopted Thursday—which will be included in a communique that will be given to you as soon as we receive it—will be very simple. It covers two aspects: One, we are requesting that while a draft bill is prepared jointly during this legislative period... [changes thought] Although it is not ready yet, we may be able to give you some details concerning this draft bill we are about to start analyzing, because one of its sponsors is here with us. We will also be receiving other ideas along the same lines. So while this draft bill is made legal, not only with the [Legislative Assembly] commission's approval, but also by making it a law of the Republic, we want to ask credit institutions to hold talks with their debtors considering the current circumstances affecting the country.

We also want to request that for a 1-month period, during the next 30 days, no legal actions be taken against debtors while a solution to the problem is sought. We will elaborate further on this subject with the institution having to do with this problem, which we understand is the Supreme Court of Justice. That is basically what the communique will say.

In addition, we must stress at this news conference that there is no law on a moratorium. There is some confusion on this, because people are taking the easy way out: Not only those who cannot pay their bills are not paying, but also those who are able to pay. We are interested in resolving the problem of those who cannot pay, not of those who can pay.

To clear the confusing situation, we must stress that the only action taken by this commission has been preparing a draft bill, which is already a bill because it has been accepted by this commission. However, I must also state that the commission can come out with ideas totally different from what is being discussed now.

That is the purpose of this news conference. We believe it is important, particularly during these difficult times the country is facing, to send a message of hope to those who are unable to pay their bills, to clarify that there is no moratorium law for those who can pay, and to suspend for 30 days the effects of legal measures such as confiscations, in the hope that we can resolve part of our problem in 30 days. Meanwhile, we believe that this commission—which not only handles matters related to commerce and industries, but also economic matters—should start analyzing possible economic solutions to overcome, contribute toward overcoming, or halt our economy's deterioration so we live under better conditions.

[Arellano] This commission is not interested in producing a moratorium law. I personally do not believe in temporary moratoriums, because that will not save the country's economy. A moratorium at this time would serve as a palliative in resolving problems of those who have seen their income reduced. However, a congressional commission's concern should be trying to save the economy or reducing its deterioration. I insist on the terms compliance and protection. However, issuing a law of this nature requires more than 1 week. A lot more time is needed, because we have already noticed the

opinions we have been receiving range from favoring the implementation of the moratorium law as it is to protesting its unconstitutionality. We have been receiving all those ideas, all of which have been backed with strong arguments.

As the commission's president has said, and we want to ratify, the commission's main concern at this time is recommending the suspension of all legal actions against those people whose properties are being confiscated; we already know of several cases.

Second, we are also recommending that agreements between enterprises and workers be respected. On what basis? On the basis, gentlemen, that we are facing in our country a historical event that I believe has no precedence in the world's history. Similar cases only occur when there is a declared war. Although there is no declared war here, the economy has been affected.

Therefore, we have no precedent; we are trying as much as possible to adhere to the law. It is possible that at a given time we might have to act outside certain laws; it is possible that at a given time we might have to do so to save the country's economy and not save a specific company, individual, or group; it is possible that we might have to suspend or repeal certain articles in codes and laws to save the country's economy. However, these would be temporary measures.

There are also objections in this matter. There are differences not only among us, but also within the executive branch. I heard someone say that rights are unrenounceable; yesterday, I heard the deputy labor minister saying that agreements between workers and businessmen must be honored to save this country.

This commission aims to fulfill its duties and the duties of the Assembly. We offered our help during the polishing while the nature of the high-level commission is defined. It will not be easy to limit the number to five; Mr Herrera wants a transportation commission to be represented. As he did, other institutions will also request participation. This will not be an easy task.

This is why we have offered our good offices to allow this commission—declared in permanent session—to be available when debtors, creditors, renters, and landlords cannot reach agreements through their associations, which is what we agreed to the other day. For example, if transporters cannot reach an agreement through the transporters labor union, representatives of creditors and debtors and this commission could meet to reach agreements.

MOLIRENA Leader on Country's Alternatives

PA0605033488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 88

[Statement by Alfredo Ramirez, president of the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement (MOLIRENA); date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] The Panamanian problem has two alternatives: the road toward a patriotic negotiation to find a patriotic solution to the crisis; and the road of violence, which is the road that is being followed. That is the road of repression and persecution of the regime's adversaries, a road that is leading the country toward a catastrophe.

The problem as I see it is that the regime, despite all its claims that it wants negotiations and dialogue, is not being sincere about this, because it does not really want any kind of negotiation that could lead to the departure of Noriega within a short period of time and the complete depoliticization of the National Guard [as heard] through an agreement that would guarantee the stability of that institution and respect for its internal rules and for the military promotion roster.

We believe that first he [not further identified] is going to see if he can resolve his problem and then he will try to reach an agreement with the local opposition.

This is why the church's mediation has failed. You will recall that the bishop has explained that the mediation has not taken place because he has been unable to get hold of General Noriega. I believe this is a true depiction of the situation we are undergoing. This is a difficult situation. I hope common sense and patriotism will prevail in all Panamanians and that we will have a real democratic solution and true national reconciliation within the framework of true justice, democracy, and liberty, and not within the framework of a farce being promoted through the notorious negotiations and dialogues that the government has proposed.

Argentina

Officials Comment on Cessation of Hostilities

Navy Chief of Staff

PY051508 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1424 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 May (NA)—Last night the Navy chief of staff, Rear Admiral Ramon Arosa, confirmed to Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and the highest-ranking Navy officers that he is in favor of a possible de jure cessation of hostilities in the Malvinas conflict "as long as the United Kingdom reciprocates."

Yesterday Arosa hosted Caputo and several high-ranking Navy officers at a dinner in the "Fragata Sarmiento" to explain the remarks he made to the press yesterday at Punta Indio on this controversial issue.

Highly reliable sources consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS have stated that Arosa said: "It is not up to the Navy to declare a formal cessation of hostilities."

Foreign Ministry Official

PY052217 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2015 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 May (NA)—Today Raul Alconada Sempe, the new Foreign Ministry secretary for special affairs, said the Argentine Government is not willing to declare a formal cessation of hostilities with the United Kingdom over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands "because the United Kingdom has not adopted any attitude yet that would justify such a declaration."

Alconada Sempe also said that "circumstances that do not contribute to a democracy in which all sectors participate" have been witnessed in Panama, but he added that in this regard Argentina will continue to uphold "the principle of nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other countries."

Commenting on a recent statement by Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Ramon Arosa, who said he favored a cessation of hostilities as long as the United Kingdom reciprocates, Alconada said this is "an opinion" of the Navy chief of staff that "coincides" with the government's stance.

Alconada spoke over Radio Del Plata from his office at the Defense Ministry this morning, shortly before being sworn in as Foreign Ministry secretary for special affairs.

During his speech Alconada discussed subjects related to Argentine foreign policy and some issues related to the post he was leaving.

Alconada Sempe said: "It is good for the Defense and Foreign Ministries to work on this issue (the cessation of hostilities), and it is also rewarding to see that the Defense Ministry has stopped being the focus of attention regarding various crises and that it is concentrating on defending territorial integrity and sovereignty."

Regarding a possible de jure cessation of hostilities, he said that "we have discussed this subject with the Foreign Ministry, and I believe what is being said is based more on rumors and suppositions than on facts."

Regarding the statement by the Navy chief of staff that a declaration of cessation of hostilities "could be a path" for a diplomatic solution to the conflict over the Malvinas, Alconada Sempe said: "It is the opinion" of the naval chief "that a cessation of hostilities would not pose difficulties in the defense sector."

Alconada Sempe said "this is an opinion that coincides with what the government has been maintaining since February 1984."

He added: "We have stated time and again that a declaration of cessation of hostilities is not necessary, because war was never formally declared."

Alconada Sempe said that "the cessation of hostilities can only be regarded as a political gesture."

He then explained that "the government has voiced its desire to start negotiations and fulfill the UN resolutions, which means being willing to hold any type of negotiations."

Alconada Sempe explained that "Argentina is not ready to declare a cessation of hostilities because we have not seen any British position that would justify such a declaration."

"For several years Argentina has been giving signs of its good disposition, through which it has gained tremendous prestige, as demonstrated by the support the international community has given our position," he stated.

He added that the United Kingdom "unfortunately maintains a more intransigent position, and day by day becomes more isolated, which prevents us from taking further steps, because if we did so, Argentina would be giving up its rights."

He said that Margaret Thatcher's government "unfortunately has been showing very little desire for negotiations. On the contrary, on several occasions it has given signs of trying to pull us out of diplomatic channels."

"The British Government is not going to take the diplomatic channels from us, because we know that diplomacy is the only way to recover the islands," he said.

He said: "The current attitude of the British Government seems to be that of a government that does not want to facilitate anything."

He also denied that he is going to become "deputy foreign minister," and he added: "I only consider myself an assistant to the secretary of foreign relations, Susana Ruiz Cerruti."

Regarding the Panamanian case, he said that "Argentina has been clear in abiding by the principle of nonintervention."

He said that "the Panamanian case is a case of internal politics in which some circumstances have occurred, and as a politician I believe these circumstances do not facilitate a real participative democracy."

He then stated: "I make this assessment as a politician. It is one thing for an individual to make a political assessment of a regime, and quite another for a third country to order an intervention, whether peaceful or not."

Alconada Sempe said that "Argentina cannot violate the principles and rights on which it bases its own sovereignty and independence."

He added: "If we help to establish the idea that when something happens in some country the great powers have the right to intervene, we are opening the door for interventions by the great powers in our own country when we do something they do not like."

Foreign Minister Caputo

PY052225 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2155 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 May (TELAM)—Today Foreign Minister Dante Caputo maintained that Argentina is willing to declare a cesstion of hostilities in the Malvinas conflict if the reasons for doing so are practical and if doing so would not lead to negotiations with preconditions.

But, the foreign minister warned that if this declaration is used simply to twist Argentina's arm, in other words, to put pressure on us without our obtaining anything, then I see no sense in it.

Caputo made these remarks at Government House after participating in the ceremony in which the new secretaries of state were sworn in. He also stressed that we have no contacts with Great Britain.

Caputo on Group of 8 Position on Panama

PY060021 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 88

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo by Lima Television reporter Jose Castro Machado; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] Could you tell us about the [Group of Eight] policy regarding the Panamanian position?

[Caputo] Our position is very simple. Perhaps it is not an orthodox position, but it is what we feel.

We are against any kind of intervention. As I was just saying, the principle of nonintervention is vital to the survival of our countries.

If the principle of nonintervention is not respected, international law will not be respected either. The law of the jungle will then prevail, and neither we nor you are lions, so we will lose.

Nonintervention is the cornerstone of the world and of our survival as developing countries.

However, at the same time, we support full democracy. I do not adopt any position automatically. I will not keep my mouth closed and accept incorrect situations in the domestic matters of some countries just to defend the principle of nonintervention.

I do not intervene; I simply express my opinion. Nonintervention is the principle by which a country does not interfere in the domestic matters of another country. The principle of keeping one's mouth shut is something else.

We have expressed our position. We want a democratic Panama. Therefore, we wish democracy and nonintervention for Panama. These are two very clear and simple principles.

The problem is that there are some people who say: Let us respect the principle of nonintervention and forget the domestic matters of other countries.

Others advocate domestic democracy and forget about the principle of nonintervention.

Well, we are paying a price for this heterodox position, but I believe all Latin American consciences agree that these two principles are vital to individual and international survival.

[Castro] Which organization do you consider has attained more of its objectives? The Group of Eight, or others?

[Caputo] It is hard to say. I would say that each organization has different objectives. The OAS serves for some things and not for others, and the Group of Eight serves for things that the OAS does not serve for.

I believe the Group of Eight is very important, perhaps because we have created it with our colleagues. I feel that through this group we have created a new style of international policy; a much less formal style, without headquarters or employees, but nonetheless vital.

Each time there is a Latin American problem, everyone now turns automatically to the Group of Eight. They want to know what this group thinks. And mind you, this is a very new group.

For example, if there is a problem in Panama, people ask themselves what does the Group of Eight think? A problem in the Malvinas Islands; what does the Group of Eight think? A foreign debt problem; what does it think?

It is very important that we Latin Americans go straight to the point. As Ortega would say, let us stop the inflation of our organizations and revalue the basic currency of will and political action.

I think we will find the clues to overcoming some of our problems with this new style we are creating.

Bolivia

Foreign Minister on Destabilization Efforts

PY051322 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez has stated than an effort is being made to destabilize the current democratic process and the economic stabilization programs of President Paz Estenssoro's administration. Bedregal said that it is obvious to the government that there are clear-cut intentions to destabilize the executive branch and bring about a change in economic policy, thus seriously harming the nation.

Bedregal said that the charges recently made by Captain Celso Campos are yet another effort to compromise important government figures in order to destabilize the democratic process.

Bedregal added that the charges made by Captain Jaime Paredes Sempertegui have the same objective. He explained that since Bolivia is now going through a preelectoral process, certain political groups are beginning to move to strengthen their positions with a view to the 1989 elections.

The foreign minister refused to reveal the names of the parties pursuing this objective, but he did make it clear that an evaluation is underway in order to respond to the challenge in the appropriate manner.

[Begin Bedregal recording] I do not believe a coup d'etat is possible, but I do believe there is a process which seeks to undermine the political and economic stability this government has achieved. They want inflation to soar once again; that is what they want. If they succeed it will severely hurt the democratic system that we all want to preserve.

One can clearly see the objectives of this hunger strike, which is trying to play on the feelings of the people and perhaps unleash violence, as happened in Potosi, where the victims of the attack were policemen. The vandals did not set fire to a private residence or a COB headquarters. They burned down a traffic police station. This type of violence is being exacerbated to undermine the economic program because if this economic program takes root, any electoral prospects that these people may have will disappear. Their actions are, therefore, to be expected and even understandable.

I do repudiate, however, the type of slander that they use. I am quite sure that if they tried hard enough they could dredge up something about me, too, because in those days I was the coordinator of President Paz Estenssoro's presidential campaign and, therefore, one of the key figures that opposed the UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity]. [end recording]

Joint Action With Brazil Against Drugs Planned

PY060030 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1635 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] La Paz, 5 May (EFE)—According to Jose Alderete, the Interior Ministry social defense under secretary, the Bolivian and Brazilian Governments will analyze the possibility of joint action against drug trafficking and discuss the enactment of similar legislation to prevent and penalize this illicit activity in the two countries.

Members of the organizations responsible for the repression of drug trafficking in Brazil and Bolivia will meet in La Paz today to coordinate proposals to strengthen the control on drug gangs in the legal and practical fields.

Alderete said the mixed commission will meet today and tomorrow. He added that the two governments have demonstrated their willingness to face head-on "this activity that is destroying the social and economic foundations of several Latin American countries."

The international drug trafficking gangs have important bases in Bolivia. These gangs trade their drugs and bring in chemicals for drug manufacture across the long Brazilian border.

Alderete said that those responsible for the fight against narcotics trafficking in Bolivia and Brazil will suggest to their respective governments the measures that need to be implemented to strengthen the repression of the traffic.

Brazil

Power Plant Stoppages Ends, Troops Withdraw

PY051648 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The electrical sector workers held an assembly and decided to end their stoppage early today. The Furnas Power Company workers have already returned to work. The Army troops that occupied the Ibuina and Cachoeira Paulista plants have already returned to their barracks.

Briefs

April Inflation Figures

Today the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics reported that the April inflation rate was 19.28 percent. This means that the accumulated inflation over the first 4 months of the year was 90.2 percent. Savings accounts will be paid 19.87-percent interest for April. [Excerpt] [*PY300007 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 29 Apr 88*]

Chile

Ministry on Matthei-Shultz Meeting Suspension

PY052355 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Carlos Ducci has reported that if the UPI report that General Fernando Matthei suspended a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is accurate, then the decision was adopted by Gen Matthei and not by the Foreign Ministry.

Ducci added that the Chilean Air Force chief is visiting the United States in his capacity as Air Force chief, that the decision to suspend the meeting with Shultz was not adopted by the Chilean Government, as reported by UPI, and that, therefore, it must have been Gen Matthei's personal decision.

FACh on Cancellations

PY060223 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 6 May 88

[Text] This evening the Chilean Air Force, FACh, issued the following communique:

Regarding press reports received from Washington today, the FACh deems it necessary to explain the following:

Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei Aubel has canceled several meetings he was scheduled to hold in Washington.

Commander Matthei made this decision in order to keep his visit to the United States strictly institutional, as was its purpose from the beginning; that is, to attend the annual meeting of commanders of the air forces of the Americas and to strengthen ties with the U.S. Air Force.

The official communique issued this evening by the FACh ends by stating that Commander Matthei's institutional activities are developing normally as scheduled.

Interior Minister Denounces No Vote Campaign

PY050252 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The interior minister has said that the no option in the plebiscite does not represent an authentic democratic solution for the country, but rather it represents a struggle for power among socialists and Marxists. The minister made this statement during a cabinet meeting today.

The cabinet meeting, which was chaired by President Augusto Pinochet, was attended by the ministers and secretaries of state. The interior and education ministers spoke during the meeting.

Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez gave a detailed report on the current national political situation. He said the opposition has had a real opportunity before the plebiscite to make a serious proposal regarding the future of Chile. However, the minister said, the opposition did not make any proposal and, therefore, it has wasted its opportunity.

Orlando Poblete, minister secretary general of government, reported on the cabinet meeting:

[Begin Poblete recording] If we analyze the current situation as the interior minister described it, we can conclude that the political scene includes the same politicians who were active from 1964 to 1970. Their political and economic stances are the same as those implemented during those years, and they have proven to be a complete failure.

Therefore, we can see that behind the no vote campaign there is certainly a plan by moderate socialism and Marxist socialism. What is worse, there is a struggle for power among these moderate and Marxist socialists.

If each Chilean citizen seriously analyzes this fact, he will understand what alternatives and challenges he faces. [end recording]

Minister Poblete also said that the government will continue its political, economic, and social policies and objectives, which are well-known in the country.

The best way to face this pre-electoral stage in the country is to carry on with the government program, he said.

Pinochet Backer Predicts October Plebiscite

PY060327 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1603 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpt] Santiago, 5 May (EFE)—Fernando Maturana, president of Santiago's "Command for the Yes Vote" and former right-wing congressman, has said the upcoming plebiscite for president will be held in October.

According to LA EPOCA, Maturana expressed support for Pinochet's candidacy because "of the serious risks of someone else being named," and he added: "I do not think the Government Junta will dare take this risk."

During a conversation with a group of women in Santiago on 4 May, Maturana said: "We have May, June, and July to campaign without a candidate, and August and September with a candidate, because the plebiscite will be held in October, near Columbus Day."

Asked about the possibility of selecting a consensus candidate, that is, someone who meets the approval of all right-wing parties, Maturana said: "We would be taking the risk of selecting an unknown civilian. We should not improvise a candidate when we have an obvious choice, a candidate who is identified with this regime and its continuation." [passage omitted]

PCCh Says Aylwin 'Discrediting' Communists

PY041538 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Apr 88 p C-5

[Text] The PCCh said yesterday that the participation of the opposition forces in the plebiscite without the definite purpose of dismantling the institutional system created by Pinochet may facilitate the continuation of the current government. The group also accused PDC [Christian Democratic Party] President Patricio Aylwin of "discrediting the position of the communists."

In a news conference, PCCh spokesmen Mireya Baltra, Jose Sanfuentes, and Carlos Toro released a communique asserting that it recognizes the significance of breaking with the Pinochet's institutional system by voting no in the upcoming plebiscite.

In the communique, the PCCh emphasizes that unless the opposition makes a "resolute decision to break up the establishment," one cannot "seriously talk about democracy."

The PCCh communique states that "the PCCh appreciates the establishment-breaking significance the political sectors, especially the leftist parties and the progressive sectors in other parties, are attaching to their decision to vote no," adding that this is a point on which "all democrats" agree.

The PCCh then stresses that "in fact, the breaking up or the establishment is the only sound democratic decision vis-a-vis the plebiscite; one either stands for a democratic breaking of the establishment or for conciliation, that is, for the continuation of many of the regime's worst features."

Regarding a decision made by the majority of the opposition forces to vote no, the PCCh reasserts that "it will take a position in due time, considering the people's interests..."

After denouncing some biased "distortions" of its action, the PCCh emphasizes that the communists "have just one position, which they are implementing consistently, namely the policy of the class struggle." This policy is described in the communique as "the use of the different methods of struggle required to implement the will of the majority of the people and to put an end to the violence that has been unleashed against the people for nearly 15 years."

Criticism of Aylwin [subhead]

Under another subhead, the PCCh communique accuses the PDC president of trying "to discredit the positions of the communists, recurring to the argument of the so-called 'civilized solutions,' which (conceal) an attempt to conduct successful negotiations behind the people's backs, negotiations that certainly will not be for the benefit of a true democracy."

Referring to the goal announced by the opposition to negotiate with the Armed Forces a new timetable for a transition, the PCCh communique states that "the communists do not rule out reaching an agreement with the members of the Armed Forces and consider that, if there is agreement, it must be reached with new Armed Forces leaders."

Nevertheless, the PCCh rejects negotiations "starting from weak positions, tending to make concessions and to restrict democratic rights." After recalling the talks held between the Democratic Alliance and [then Interior Minister Sergio Onofre] Jarpa in 1983, the National Accord, and the letters sent to the government junta, the PCCh concludes by stating that these attempts lead to "a blind alley."

Proscribed Communist Party Holds Rally

PY041249 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Apr 88 p C-5

[Excerpts] The Communist Party [PCCh] yesterday commemorated the birthday of bolshevik leader Lenin, and paid homage to former Communist Party Deputy Andres Escobar during a "political-cultural" act that was briefly attended by former Communist Deputy Luis Guastavino.

The main speaker of the event was former Senator Julieta Campusano who, in the name of the PCCh Central Committee, made a call "to take advantage of plebiscite to provoke the crumbling of the regime."

The event was held at the Miguel Leon Prado Gymnasium in San Miguel, with communist sympathizers and other specially invited left-wing parties. [passage omitted]

On the occasion Lenin and Gorbachev were extolled.

Later, a representative of the JJCC [Communist Youth] Central Committee announced the launching of a campaign to recruit 10,000 new Communist Youth militants before 5 September. [passage omitted]

A delegation of representatives of the proscribed PCCh that included Mireya Baltra, Jose Sanfuentes, Estela Ortiz, Claudina Nunez, Manuel Rodriguez, Galvarino Melo, and Gonzalo Rovira appeared on stage. [passage omitted]

MIR Claims Responsibility for Bombings

PY050111 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2123 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Santiago, 4 May (EFE)—The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has claimed responsibility for the bombings that left Concepcion and Talcahuano, 531 km south of Santiago, without electricity for several hours.

According to a communique released today in Santiago by this ultraleftist organization, the "MIR Military Committee" claimed responsibility for the two bombings which on the night of 2 May cut electric power in the two cities, which are only a few kilometers apart.

The outage caused television stations to stop transmitting.

It also affected the Talcahuano Naval Base, a radio station antenna, and the electrical installations of the national television channel.

The communique says that during the first minutes of the outage, the MIR used the television system to transmit a long proclamation.

The broacast was made from a station called "Radio Liberacion," located in a hotel in Concepcion.

The voice of a woman said "the plebiscite is only one more step by the dictatorship to institutionalize and perpetuate its domination. Participation in this electoral farce means playing the game of the henchmen."

CNI, Police Arrest FPMR Member in Talca

PY050200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Santiago, 4 May (EFE)—Today the CNI [National Intelligence Center], in coordination with the civilian police, arrested Erasmo Roberto Gajardo Valderrama, a member of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR].

With Gajardo's arrest in the city of Talca, 258 km south of Santiago, seven members of the FPMR have been arrested in the past few months. The other six were arrested in March 1988.

Gajardo went by the alias of Gaston, and he is accused of having participated in numerous terrorist actions, according to official sources in Talca.

He became a member of the FPMR in 1984. The FPMR is the armed faction of the Chilean Communist Party, according to the same sources.

The sources reported that evidence exists of Gajardo's participation in numerous bomb attacks against the electricity network, the railway, and a supermarket.

Carabineros Discover Extremist 'Safe House'

PY041600 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Apr 88 p C-7

[Excerpt] During an operation carried out in La Granja, to investigate a terrorist attack in Renca on 13 April during which Carabinero Samuel Estaban Lopez was killed, Carabineros personnel have found an extremist "safe house."

The investigations also led to the discovery of a house where materiel of the Chilean Army, electronic communications equipment, and a great deal of ammunition and bombs were stored. This materiel was confiscated on 22 April from a house located at 282 Copihues Street, near bus stop 24 in La Florida suburb, and a woman whose identity has not been revealed was arrested.

The Carabineros Committee for Civilian Affairs has reported in the last few hours that the electronic equipment was used to interfere with police communications and to break police codes.

An officer who took part in the operation said that "the materiel was oiled, and fully operational. He added that it is important to establish the date when the materiel was used, therefore the oil is being tested at a laboratory. If the test reveals the date, it will be very important to the investigation. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Foreign Debt Reduction

Central Bank President General Enrique Seguel has revealed that the Chilean medium- and long-term debt with international banks has been lowered by $4.087 billion. This figure represents 24.5 percent of the foreign debt outstanding in mid-1985. This reduction made was possible through the debt-for-equity exchange mechanism, which has saved $350 million a year for the country by reducing interest payments. The country's foreign debt has now been reduced to 3.5 times the value of the country's exports. [Summary] [*PY041823 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Apr 88 pp A1, C4*]

Colombia

ELN To Release Reporters After News Conference

PA0505191088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1734 GMT 5 May 88

[Report by Maria Eugenia Sierra]

[Text] This morning at 0930 four men entered the beauty salon patronized by reporter Gloria Cecilia Gomez, and after tying the employees up, gagging them, and locking them in the bathroom, the men seized the Telenoticiero del Mediodia announcer.

[Begin recording] [Beauty salon employee] They said they were members of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] who had come for her because they wanted to give her some information and hold a news conference.

[Sierra] Were you threatened?

[Employee] We were told that if we cared for her we should refrain from calling the police, that they would respect her life, that they were not going to harm her, and that we could be at ease. [end recording]

The ELN's Manuel Gustavo Chacon Front has claimed responsibility for Gloria Cecilia Gomez' kidnapping. They have also claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of 12 diplomats, reporters, and politicians in the past few days.

The four kidnappers were armed with machineguns. They used the reporter's car, a green Fiat with license plate No AF1558, to get away. They were followed by a white Mercedes Benz with two people in it. According to witnesses, the white Mercedes was parked half a block from the beauty salon located on 43d Street, 19 Carrera, Palmermo neighborhood, Bogota. The police have set up roadblocks throughout the city in an attempt to locate the cars in which Gloria Cecilia Gomez was taken away. They are also looking for clues that will tell them where the Manuel Chacon Sarmiento Front rebels are headed. Manuel Chacon Sarmiento was the treasurer of the Workers Trade Union, USO, and also a poet. He was killed on 15 January 1988 on the streets of Barrancabermeja, Santander.

[Announcer] It seems that the number of kidnapped people in the hands of the ELN is larger than previously thought. A few minutes ago the Union Camilista Command contacted the press to announce that they are holding the following people in a camp they identified as Nueva Colombia: two Swiss-Colombian Chamber of Commerce officials kidnapped in Bogota; French correspondent (Jean Christophe Rampa), kidnapped in Bogota on Sunday; Swedish correspondent (Irene Nielsen); CROMOS correspondent Eduardo Marquez; the Madrid EL PAIS correspondent; Mexico's EXCELSIOR correspondent; and Gloria Cecilia Gomez. The location of the camp is unknown. The communique adds that the reporters will be released, safe and sound, after a news conference with the kidnappers is held.

Possibility of Rebel Summit Reported

PA0505195488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] This newscast has learned that a rebel summit could take place shortly in Santander Department. The 6-month truce signed by the Simon Bolivar Coordinating Board and the government ends on 25 July.

ELN Occupies Santander Town, Kills Policeman

PA0505204688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 May 88

[Report by Maria Pilar Marin]

[Text] Approximately 60 members of the Armando Cacua Guerrero Front of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] occupied Salazar de las Palmas in the western part of Norte Santander Department at 0130 today. Policeman Ariel Zapata Gonzalez was killed during the attack, and four policemen were wounded and taken to the San Juan de Dios Hospital. Policeman Luis Alberto Contreras was kidnapped by the rebels, who partially destroyed the police headquarters and a police car. The rebels also tried to rob the Agrarian Bank.

The rebels fled into the mountains after the Army deployed reinforcements from Pamplona and Cucuta.

Peru

Policeman Killed in Attack on TV Facilities

PY041553 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Yesterday a policeman of the Republican Guard was killed during a terrorist attack perpetrated against Panamericana Television facilities in Chimbote.

Second Sergeant Albuquerque la Madrid, 25, was murdered by four heavily-armed guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru terrorist group who tried to take over the building. The policemen repelled the terrorist attack. La Madrid was shot dead in the ensuing shoot-out.

Upon realizing that they had failed, the terrorists fled using explosives to clear the way. During a dragnet operation carried out by the police, a terrorist identified as Segunda Villanueva Bonifacio, who had been shot in one arm, was arrested.

Initial investigations have revealed that the woman is the sister of Mario Villanueva Bonifacio, a terrorist who was killed in Chimbote on 27 September 1987 when he tried to murder a policeman in order to get his gun.

Uruguay

Senate Committee Holds Up Army Promotions

PY040316 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2017 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Montevideo, 3 May (EFE)—The promotion of 37 Uruguayan officers to the rank of colonel is being held up due to their alleged participation in human rights violations during the previous military government (1973-85).

On 2 May the Senate Defense Committee approved the promotion of 9 members of the Air Force, 12 of the Navy, and 1 of the Army, and left in suspense the promotion of 37 other Army officers. Today Raumar Jude, a member of the defense committee and of the ruling Colorado Party, confirmed this to EFE.

Senator Luis Senatore, a member of the committee and of the leftist Broad Front coalition, submitted documentation on the alleged violations of human rights by the officers who have been selected for promotion to the rank of colonel.

Jude stressed that what happened during the military regime "is a stage that has now been overcome" with the approval in 1986 of the Statute of Limitations Law that put an end to the trials, even before they were formally started, against members of the Armed Forces and police who were allegedly involved in human rights violations during the previous regime.

The Senate Defense Committee, which also includes a representative from the National, or Blanco, Party—the main opposition party—will meet on 9 May to continue its study of Uruguayan Army promotions.

Since democracy returned to Uruguay in March 1985, the promotion of Armed Forces officers must be approved by Congress, in accordance with Uruguayan legislation.

Guyana

Indian Vice President, Delegation Arrive

FL0500182400 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] A delegation of top Indian officials has arrived in Guyana following a 3-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago.

The delegation received a warm welcome from Guyana's Indian community. The delegation, led by Indian Vice President Shankar Dayal [Sharma] Singh [name as heard], includes several members of the Indian Parliament. They came to Guyana to participate in the 150th anniversary of the coming of East Indian immigrants as indentured servants to help defend British Guyana.

Bar Associations Criticize Massiah's Appointment

FL0505145788 Bridgetown CANA in English 1721 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 2, CANA — The Organisation of Caribbean Bar Associations (OCBA) has criticised Guyana's Appointment of the former chancellor of judiciary Keith Massiah as the country's new attorney general.

In a statement issued here, OCBA's Jamaican President Dr. Lloyd Barnett said that the move could only undermine public confidence in the judiciary and the administration of justice in Guyana.

As the former head of the judiciary and present head of the government's legal services, Mr. Massiah has inevitably placed himself in a position where he will be engaged as a minister in an area which he had to play substantial judicial role prior to his retirement from judicial office, Barnett said.

The OCBA president noted that there were ethical rules and long standing tradition that judges did not after retirement join the political executive. In most cases they were not even permitted to practice in the courts over which they presided, he said.

It would appear that Mr. Massiah's acceptance of these offices will conflict with both aspects of the rule and traditions of the legal profession, the OCBA president added.

Massiah took up his ministeral office the day after retiring.

Technical Cooperation Accord Reached With Zambia
FL0505151188 Bridgetown CANA in English
1834 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 3, CANA — The first meeting of the Guyana-Zambia joint commission has ended here with the two sides reaching agreement on techical co-operation, head of Guyana's department of international economic cooperation, Dr. Cecil Rajana said.

Rajana said that under a cooperation agreement signed at the end of the meeting, Guyana will share with Zambia its expertise in rice and sugar production while Zambia will help Guyana in cotton cultivation.

The two countries have also agreed to arrange for exchange visits by representatives of their business sectors to explore possibilities for joint venture projects, for Guyanese pilots to be trained in Zambia and for Zambian health officials to be trained in Guyana in leprosy control.

The refining of Guyana's gold and Zambia's emeralds for the production of jewelery for exporting to third countries is also provided for in the agreement.

In addition, the two sides have also agreed to examine further proposals for exporting Guyana's rice, sugar, and lumber to Zambia in exchange for fertiliser and other products.

The two countries have also agreed to strengthen the areas of cooperation between their national service agencies.

The Zambia team at the joint commission meeting was headed by Zambia's minister of state in the Ministry of Finance and National Commission for Development and planning, Rabbison Chongo, while the Guyana team was led by senior minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Patrick Mckenzie.

Both team leaders have expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting.

According to Rabbison, the meeting established the cornerstone for strengthening relations between the two countries, in spite of the physical distance between them.